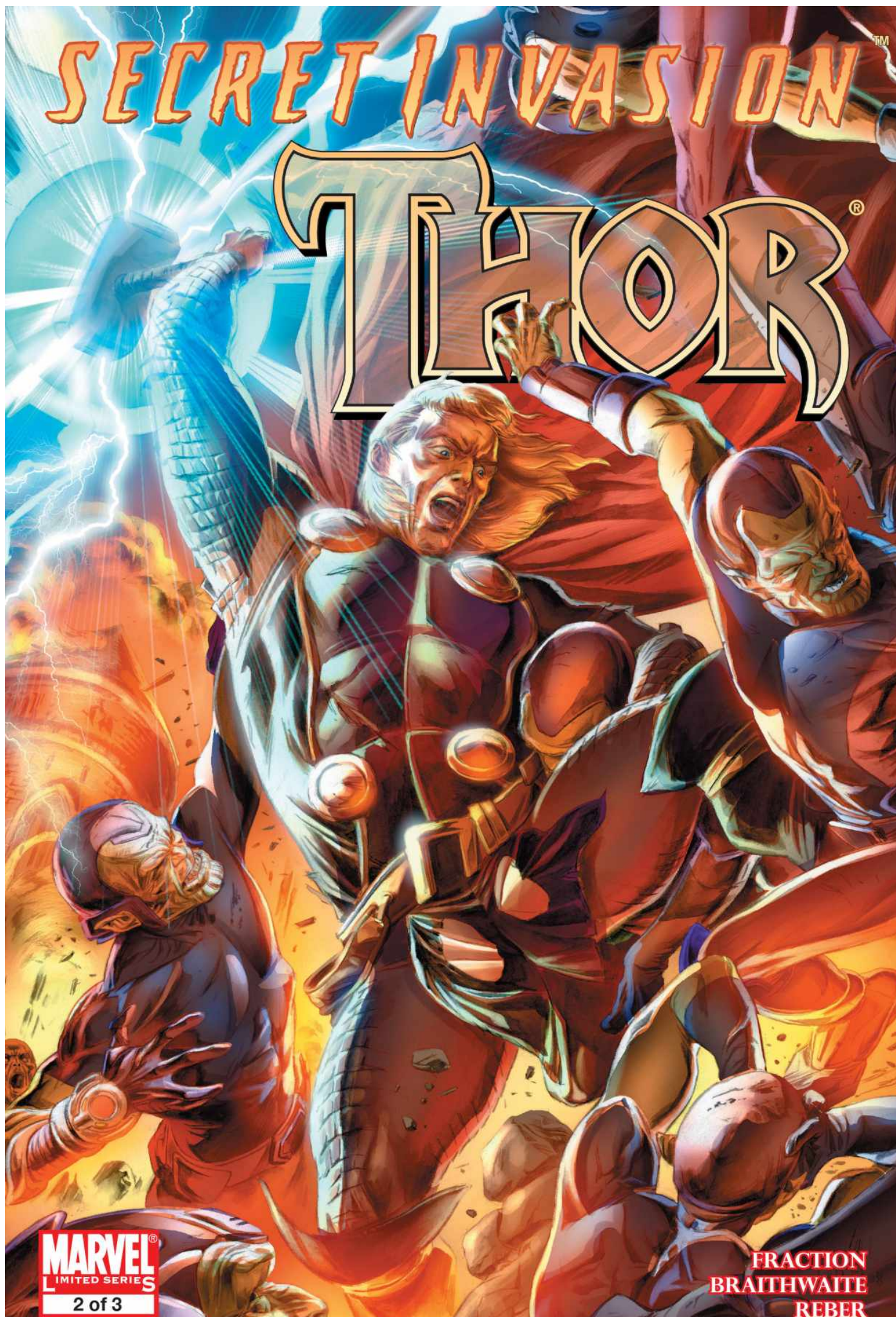


SECRET INVASION

THOR



MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES

2 of 3

**FRACTION
BRAITHWAITE
REBER**

SECRET INVASION



Asgard is under attack.

The Skrulls, a race of shape-shifting aliens, have launched a secret invasion to take the planet Earth for themselves. The infiltration has already occurred...next comes the attack.

But Earth is also home now to the gods of the Norse pantheon. Thor, their leader, has built them a new shining city outside the town of Broxton, Oklahoma. The Skrulls know that the gods are not to be trifled with, and hope to intimidate them.

Bound with the beaten, wracked body of Beta Ray Bill--an alien ally of Asgard and the bearer of a hammer of power identical to Thor's--they communicated the words: Leave Earth or be destroyed. They took Bill's hammer, Stormbreaker, and threw him down to Earth, powerless, to die.

Meanwhile, in Broxton, Dr. Don Blake, the mortal host of the mighty Thor, was about to deliver a young woman's first baby when Bill's broken body crashed to Earth. Preparing to defend against the Skrull attack, Thor called forth storms to conceal Broxton from the invaders. Then, loaning Thor's own hammer to Beta Ray Bill, Blake restored Bill to his fullest power, but trapped himself in his mortal form. The Asgardians steeled themselves to fight...led by the noble prince Balder and Beta Ray Bill in Thor's place. Blake returned to Broxton to deliver the baby, just as the Skrull armada launched its attack...

SECRET INVASION: THOR PART TWO

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IT SOUNDED LIKE NEVER-ENDING THUNDER.

AND IT SOUNDED LIKE IT HAD ROLLED IN FROM HELL ITSELF.

THE SKRULLS HAD COME FROM LIGHT YEARS AWAY TO WIPE ASGARD FROM HUMAN MEMORY...

AND THESE WARRIORS WERE NO ORDINARY SKRULLS.

A RACE OF SHAPE-SHIFTERS THAT HAVE LEARNED TO SHIFT THEIR FORM AT ITS BASE GENETIC LEVEL.

THESE SKRULLS HAD EVOLVED THEMSELVES FOR THIS WAR.

THEY WERENT EVEN CALLED "SKRULL" AMONGST THEIR OWN KIND.

THEY WERE SOMETHING NEW. THE NEAREST TRANSLATION WOULD BE "GODKILLERS."

BUT "ASGARDIAN" MEANS "ASGARDIAN" IN ANY LANGUAGE...

AND THAT MEANT THEY WOULD NOT FALL EASILY. REGARDLESS OF THE DISADVANTAGES THE SKRULLS MIGHT HAVE THEM AT.

THERE WOULD BE ONLY
ONE DISADVANTAGE TO
WHICH THE ASGARDIANS
MIGHT ADMIT:

RATHER THAN BE LED
INTO THIS FIGHT BY
THE MIGHTY THOR...

AT LAST,
BRAVE BALDER!
THE BATTLE HAS
ARRIVED!

aye,
BETA RAY
BILL. aye.

...THE ROLE
FELL TO HIS TWO
STEWARDS.

READY TO
FIGHT?

READY
TO FIGHT.
READY TO
DIE.

SHOW
THEM THE
SAME MERCY
THEY SHOWED
ME!

SHOW THEM
COMPASSION
AT THE ENDS
OF YOUR
BLADES!

FOR
ASGARD!

AS LIVES ARE LOST
IN ASGARD, A NEW
ONE IS ON ITS WAY IN
NEARBY BROXTON.

YOU'RE
DOING GREAT,
MARIE--YOU'RE
DOING GREAT--

HAARRRRRRHHH!!!

THE MIGHTY THOR, IN
HIS MORTAL GUISE,
IS SEEING TO THAT.

ASGARD WOULD
HAVE TO WAIT...

THERE YOU
GO. BREATHE
THROUGH IT.
BREATHE
THROUGH IT...

OKAY
OKAY OKAY
OKAY.

=PPPPHHHHHTTTT=
OKAY.





DR. BLAKE?



IS SHE--

NODDED OFF A LITTLE. THE CONTRACTIONS ARE REALLY TAKING IT OUT OF HER. WE'VE GOT A FEW MINUTES.

OKAY.



SHE'S DOING GREAT.

YEAH.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU SEEM-- DISTRACTED.



FIRST TIME LIVING IN TORNADO ALLEY DURING THIS SEASON, ISN'T IT?

DON'T LET THESE OLD STORMS SCARE YOU. THEY'LL BLOW THROUGH AS FAST AS THEY BLEW IN.

THAT THUNDER'S JUST A WARNING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT.



HEH.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE TORNADOS OF '99, '82, '80, AND--



AH--
PARDON ME,
MA'AM. HOLD THAT
THOUGHT.

SO THAT'S
IT, BOYS--WE
GOTTA GO.

YEAH.

EXCUSE
ME.
FELLAS?

DID I
OVERHEAR YOU
GUYS CORRECTLY?
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT
GOING BACK OUT
IN THE STORMS?

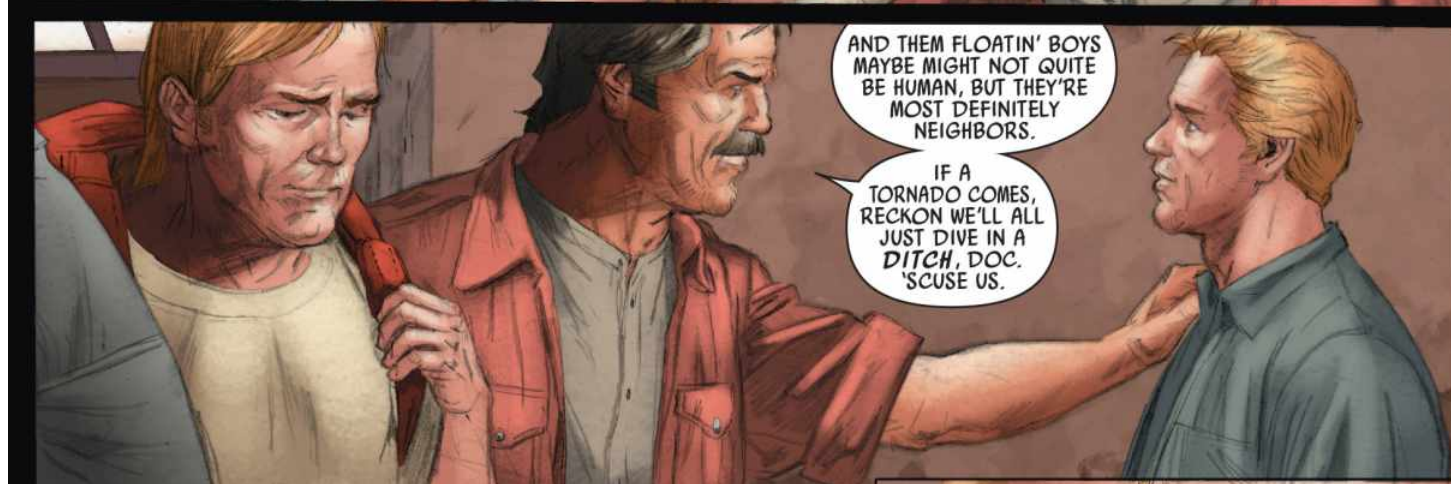
I REALLY
THINK YOU GUYS
SHOULD STAY PUT. IT'S
PRETTY DANGEROUS
OUT THERE...



DOC, WE SURE APPRECIATE
YOU WORRYIN' ABOUT OUR WELL-
BEING, BUT OUR...FRIENDS...
OUT THERE...SEEM TO BE
NEEDING A FIRE
DEPARTMENT.

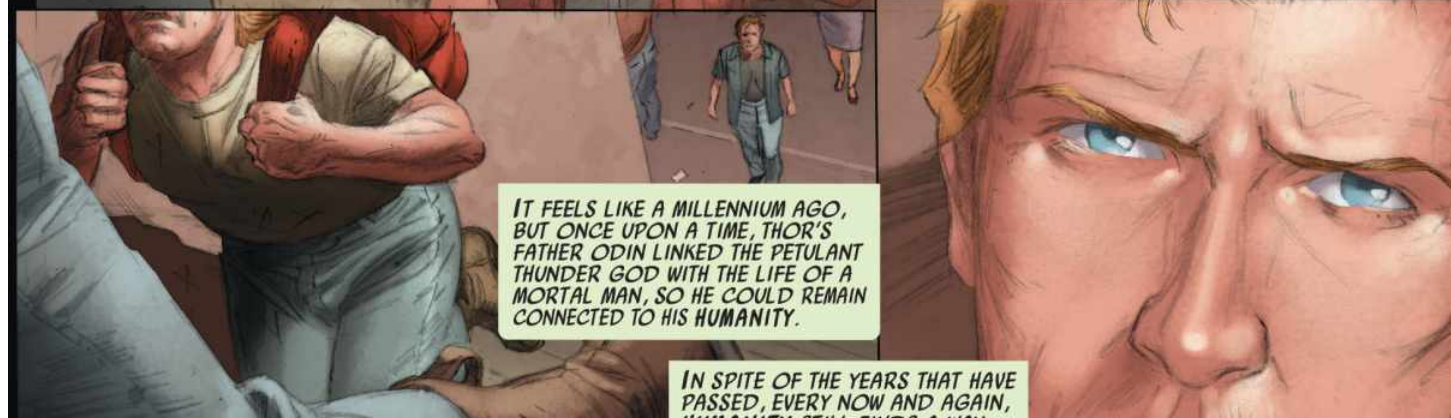
CARL HERE SEEN IT HIMSELF--
THAT BIG FLOATIN' CITY OF
THEIRS IS ON FIRE AND
THE RAIN AIN'T PUTTIN'
IT OUT.

AND WE
MIGHT NOT BE ACTUAL
FIREMEN BUT WE'RE TRAINED
AND WE VOLUNTEERED.
HELPIN' NEIGHBORS IS
OUR JOB.



AND THEM FLOATIN' BOYS
MAYBE MIGHT NOT QUITE
BE HUMAN, BUT THEY'RE
MOST DEFINITELY
NEIGHBORS.

IF A
TORNADO COMES,
RECKON WE'LL ALL
JUST DIVE IN A
DITCH, DOC.
'SCUSE US.



IT FEELS LIKE A MILLENNIUM AGO,
BUT ONCE UPON A TIME, THOR'S
FATHER ODIN LINKED THE PETULANT
THUNDER GOD WITH THE LIFE OF A
MORTAL MAN, SO HE COULD REMAIN
CONNECTED TO HIS HUMANITY.

IN SPITE OF THE YEARS THAT HAVE
PASSED, EVERY NOW AND AGAIN,



IN ASGARD,
HOWEVER...

...THE NATURE OF
WAR REMAINS, AS
EVER, UNCHANGED.

BRUTAL, VICIOUS,
AND ULTIMATELY
RELENTLESS.

THE SHAPE-SHIFTERS
TOOK THEIR ADVANTAGES
AS THEY FOUND THEM.

THE ASGARDIANS MADE
THEIR OWN ADVANTAGES,
MATCHING SURPRISE
WITH SAVAGERY.



THUS WAS LIFE.
THUS WAS WAR.



CLOUDS'RE
GETTIN'
WORSE!

MAYBE
THEY'LL DO
OUR JOB
FOR US...



COME ON!

COME ON! WHO'S NEXT?!?

WHERE IS YOUR MIGHT NOW THAT I AM FREED?

WHERE IS YOUR POWER NOW THAT I--

UH-OH.

HE LOVES YOU.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?



A SUPER-SKRULL.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO MIMIC
THE POWERS OF FOUR OF EARTH'S
MOST EPIC TITANS:

THUNDRA, TITANIA,
VOLCANA, AND
BATTLEAXE.

THAT THESE TITANS
WERE ALL FEMALE
WAS CLEARLY A
MOCKERY OF ASGARD'S
PATRIARCHAL
ORGANIZATION...

THE HEARTS OF
HER AXES WERE
FAMILIAR, TOO...

AND THEIR USE
REQUIRED FURTHER
GENETIC MODIFICATIONS
STILL.

BETA RAY BILL
RECOGNIZED THEM
BY HOW HE FELT IN
THEIR PRESENCE:

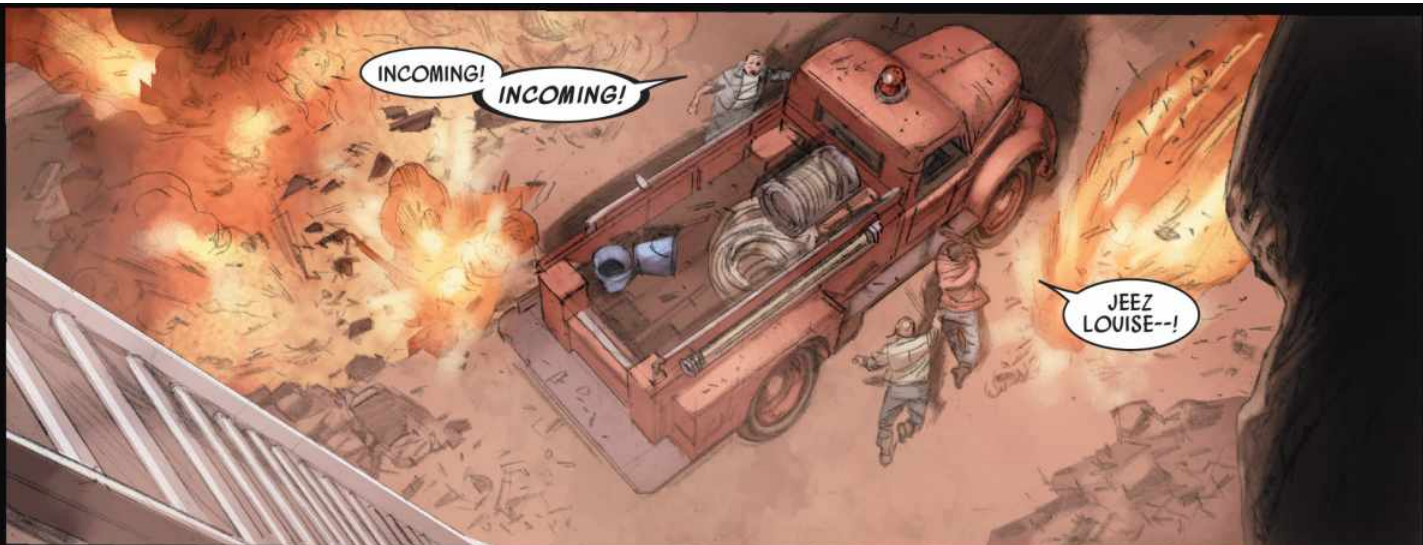
STORMBREAKER.

BILL'S OWN HAMMER.
MUTILATED AND
TRANSFORMED BY SKRULL
SUPER-SCIENCE, ITS USE MADE
POSSIBLE BY PROFOUND
GENETIC PERVERSIONS.

AND SO THOR'S MJOLNIR
AND BILL'S OWN
STORMBREAKER, EQUAL
WEAPONS CRAFTED IN THE
SAME CELESTIAL FORGE,
WOULD FACE ONE ANOTHER
ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD.

YOU'VE
DESTROYED
MY HAMMER,
MONSTER.





INCOMING!
INCOMING!

JEEZ
LOUISE--!



NOT DOING
ANY GOOD
BACK THERE.

THE HELL
KIND OF FIRE
WAS THAT?



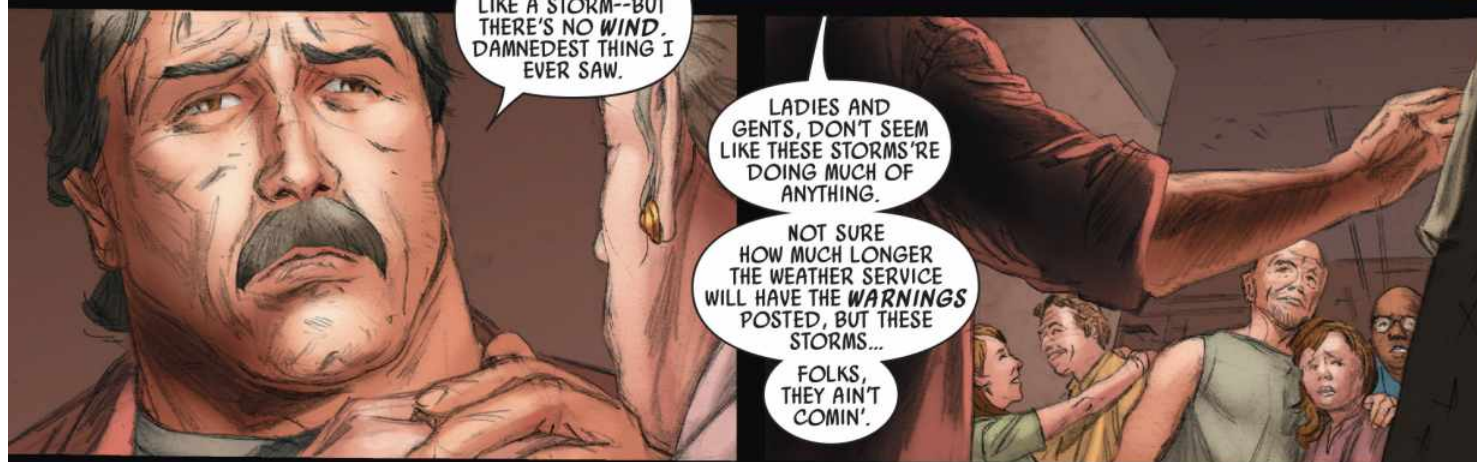
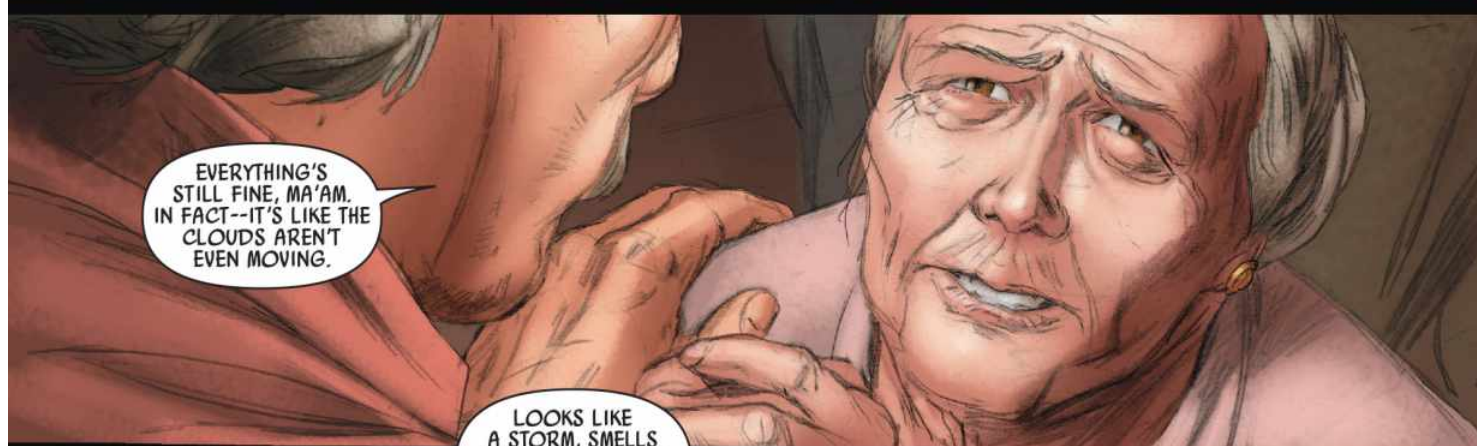
HELL'S
ABOUT RIGHT,
WILLIE.

HELL'S ABOUT
RIGHT.



LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
SHELTERS AND SEE
WHAT GOOD WE CAN
DO THERE.

OUT
HERE WE JUST
WOULD'VE
GOTTEN
KILLED.





OKAY, MARIE. THIS IS IT. BABY'S COMING.

OKAYOKAYOKAYOKAY



PUSH, SWEETHEART. LET'S MEET YOUR KID.



AAAAAAAAA!

THAT'S IT, MARIE--THAT'S IT-- NOW HOLD YOUR BREATH AND PUSH--

ALL THE FOLKS THERE IN THE BASEMENT OF THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERED AROUND.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A GENUINE MIRACLE AND, FOR A MOMENT, THE PEOPLE OF BROXTON ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE REMINDED OF THAT VERY THING.



I CAN SEE THE HEAD, MARIE.

YOU CAN SEE MY BABY?



THE
FLAMES SMOLDER,
BROTHERS--NOW
STRIKE!

STRIKE IT
DOWN UNTIL
IT DIES!



THE HEAD
IS OUT, MARIE--
I'VE GOT IT IN MY
HANDS, SWEETHEART--
NOW GIVE ME
ONE MORE
PUSH--

ARRRRR--

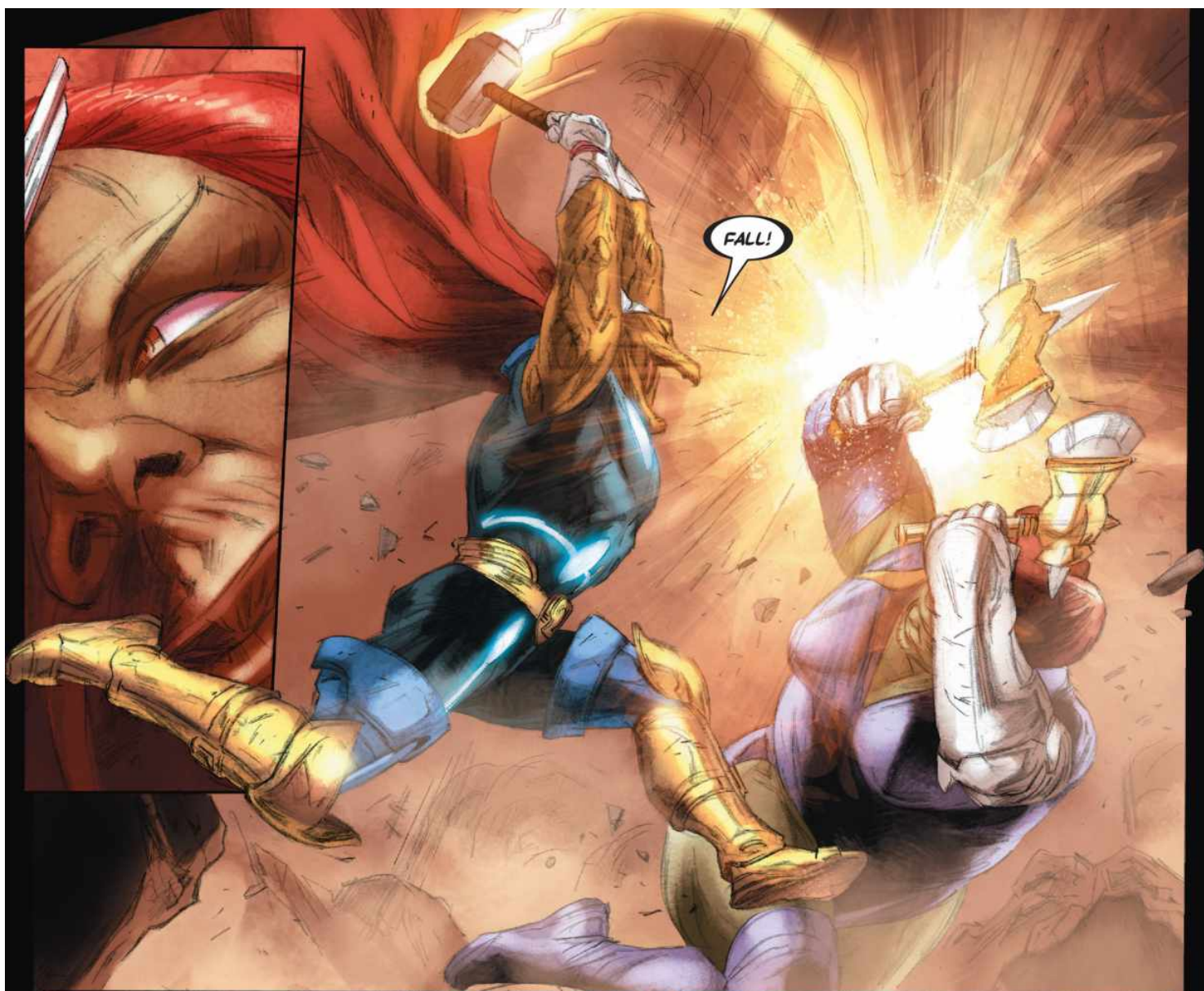
ONE
MORE GOOD
PUSH SHOULD
DO IT--



CS!CRHHIE

THAT'S IT!
THERE'S THE
SHOULDERS,
MARIE--

HERE
WE GO--





IT'S
A GIRL,
MARIE.

IT'S A
BEAUTIFUL
BABY GIRL.



MY
BABY.

MY BABY
GIRL.



SHE'LL
NEED A NAME,
Y'KNOW.

IT'S
TRADITION.



FAITH.

HER
NAME IS
"FAITH."



GREAT NAME,
MARIE.

ABSOLUTELY
PERFECT.



NICE WORK,
DOC.

ALWAYS DID
HAVE A KNACK FOR
IMPROVISATION.

THEY'RE BOTH
RESTING. SHE'S OKAY
FOR NOW, BUT WE REALLY
NEED TO GET HER TO A
HOSPITAL SOON TO
MAKE SURE.



YEAH.



I'VE DONE
PLENTY OF HOME-
BIRTHS. I CAN KEEP HER
SAFE AND COMFORTABLE
HERE FOR A WHILE,
BUT--

GOTTA
BE SAFE.

WE NEED
TO BE SAFE,
YES.



THAT **THUNDER**
OUT THERE SOUNDS
BIGGER THAN EVER. I
DON'T THINK THAT THE
REAL STORM HAS
GOTTEN HERE
YET.

AND I
THINK WHEN IT
DOES, WE'RE ALL
IN A LOT OF
TROUBLE.



YOU
DID GREAT
TODAY.



DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
THE STORMS.

THEY'LL
ONLY LAST AS
LONG AS THEY
HAVE TO.



STOP IT--
#EFFF--STOP IT,
BROTHERS!

HHHRRKKKGRRKKK--

TRYING,
MY LORD--
TRYING
TO--

--TOO
STRONG, IT'S
TOO--

THE MONSTER
PAUSED.

IT SMELLED SOMETHING
IN THE AIR--SENSED
SOMETHING IN THE
HEAT OF WAR.

NEW LIFE.



STOP--
STOP
IT--



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE
GODKILLING BEAST LAID ITS
SOULLESS EYES ON BROXTON.



HEH.



IT TOSSED BETA RAY
BILL LIKE A CHILD
DONE WITH A TOY.

AFTER
IT!

IT MUST
NOT REACH
BROXTON!



BILL, CLINGING TO
CONSCIOUSNESS,
WAS HELPLESS
BEFORE THE BEAST'S
CAPRICIOUS WHIMS.



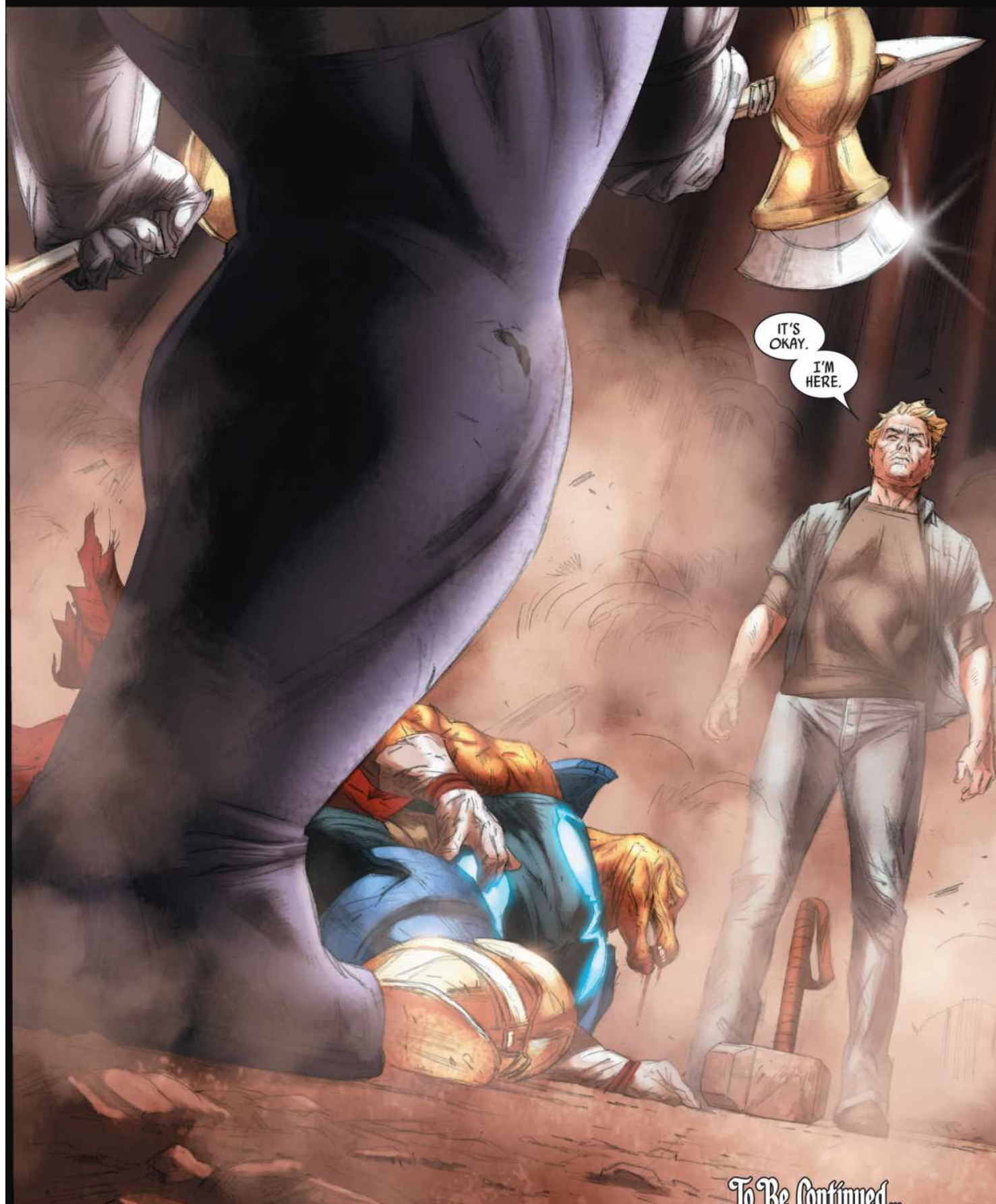
BUT HE WAS A WARRIOR.
AND HE WOULD FIGHT
UNTIL STOPPED OR
SLAUGHTERED.

HE DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO RELENT AND
WOULD BE DAMNED
IF HE LEARNED NOW.



THE SUPER-SKRULL SCREAMED
ITS BATTLE CRY, AND
IT ECHOED ACROSS THE VAST
EXPANSE OF THE DESERT.

BROXTON WOULD
BE NEXT. OF THIS
THERE WAS NO DOUBT.



To Be Continued...

next issue

